

Facts about organ, eye and tissue donation

People of all ages and medical histories can be donors. Medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs can be donated. Donated organs include heart, pancreas, liver, lungs and intestines. Organs are distributed based upon medical information such as blood type, body size and tissue matching through a national computer network operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing.

LUNGS

Lung replacement can be a lifesaver for patients with cystic fibrosis, emphysema or other end-stage lung diseases.

3,299 people on national waiting list

LIVER

Liver replacements can save patients with end-stage liver disease.

17,537 people on national waiting list

PANCREAS

Replacement of a diseased pancreas in a diabetic person can eliminate the need for insulin injections.

1,699 people on national waiting list

BONE MARROW

This transplant can help patients with aplastic anemia and immune system deficiencies, and it has helped produce remission in certain types of acute leukemia.

BONE

Bone is used in facial reconstruction, limb salvaging, correction of birth defects, cancer treatments and spinal and oral surgery.

CARTILAGE AND TENDONS

They're used in facial and other reconstructive surgeries.

EYES AND CORNEAS

Restore vision for some blind people.

HEART

They're used as replacements for patients whose hearts no longer work.

3,056 people on national waiting list

KIDNEYS

These life-enhancing and lifesaving transplants help patients with kidney failure.

63,972 people on national waiting list

SMALL INTESTINE

Transplants are lifesaving for patients suffering from short bowel syndrome. They restore the nutritional balance of the body.

193 people on national waiting list

FASCIA (connective tissue)

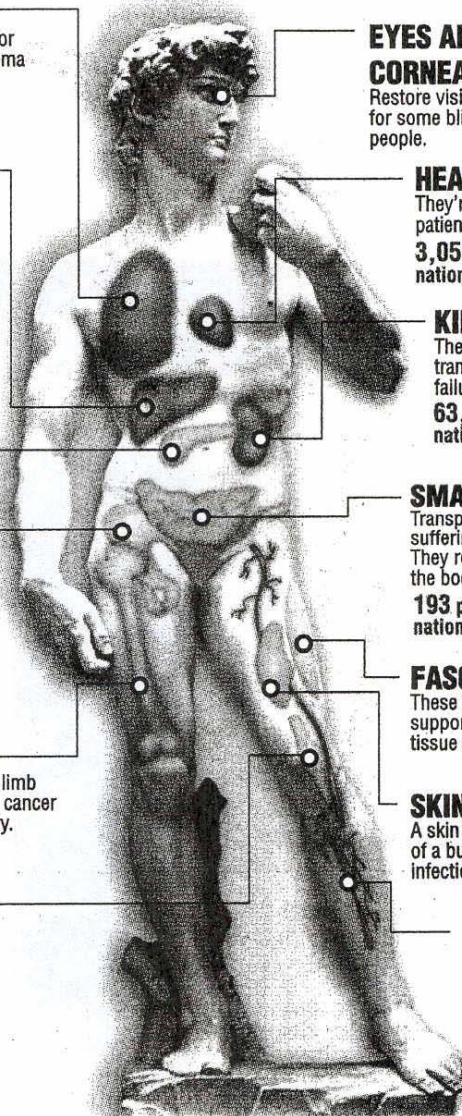
These transplants are used to restore support and to repair limbs, soft tissue and fascial defects.

SKIN

A skin transplant can save the life of a burn patient. It decreases pain, infection, heat loss and fluid loss.

VEINS

They're used in vascular reconstruction to restore blood flow to various parts of the body.



Fast Fact:

Washoe Medical Center on Oct. 4 was awarded the Medal of Honor for Organ Donation by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. WMC was the only hospital in Nevada in 2004 that had an organ donation rate of 75 percent of eligible donors. The national average donation rate for hospitals is 55 percent. Only 184 of the 532 eligible hospitals nationwide received the honor.

The numbers:

90,266

Nationwide waiting list candidates as of Nov. 4

16,449

Transplants performed between January and July

8,489

Donor organs recovered between that time

17

Average number of people who die every day due to a lack of available organs

14

Time period in minutes in which a name is added to the national waiting list

100

Number of people one donor can help